

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 437

By Freeman

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Lieutenant Colonel Joe Sharbel of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely passing of Lieutenant Colonel Joe Sharbel of Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Joe Sharbel was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a Nashville native, Lieutenant Colonel Sharbel was the son of Kelly and Margaret Sharbel; he attended Christ the King Church and graduated from Father Ryan High School before he enrolled in the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps at Vanderbilt University; and

WHEREAS, he received his Master of Arts degree in Military Studies from the Command and Staff College at Quantico, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, proud to serve his country, Joe Sharbel was a model officer with the United States Marine Corps and had attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel at the time of his retirement in August 2005 after twenty-two years of distinguished service; and

WHEREAS, during his service in the Marine Corps, Lieutenant Colonel Sharbel was given sensitive duty assignments that reflected the trust his superior officers had in his abilities; he served as the readiness and manpower mobilization planner for Operation Desert Storm, Operation Noble Anvil, Operation Allied Force, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

WHEREAS, in April 2004, he was deployed to Iraq as Operations Officer, Iraq Survey Group, Baghdad, where he was responsible for planning intelligence gathering operations in search of weapons of mass destruction and counter-terrorism, and in December 2004, he was

redeployed to the Horn of Africa, where he served as Information Operations Officer for Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa until March 2005; and

WHEREAS, answering the call to duty to serve our nation's youth, Colonel Sharbel accepted a teaching position at Montgomery Bell Academy, where he taught history and served as the rifle team coach; he led the rifle team program to national prominence, eight state championships, and success at numerous national competitions, and many of his shooters went on to compete in the college ranks; and

WHEREAS, under his astute leadership, the Montgomery Bell Academy rifle team recently captured its latest state championship victory; he took great pride in the team's success and the success of every student he taught, advised, or coached; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Sharbel was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, a devoted husband and father, Colonel Sharbel enjoyed the loving companionship of his beloved wife, Susan Cherry Sharbel, and was the proud father of Ian Sharbel and Jason Sharbel, who proudly followed their father into military service, and Maura Regan and Harrison Regan, whom he dearly cherished; and

WHEREAS, he will be fondly remembered by his siblings, Herb Sharbel, Kelly (Nancy) Sharbel, Nolan (Laura) Sharbel, Charlie (Denise) Sharbel, Jeanne (Pat) Gower, Cecelia (DJ) Sharbel, and Cathy Sharbel; and

WHEREAS, a true gentleman who preferred a quiet and simple life, Colonel Sharbel enjoyed the fellowship of a shared meal with good friends and family and a fireside chat where the whiskey and stories flowed as his well-loved "Haverford" hounds were on patrol. He loved God, his country, his family, and his friends beyond measure; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Joe Sharbel leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Lieutenant Colonel Joe Sharbel, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Lieutenant Colonel Sharbel.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.